



July 12th, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

End of Term – July 2023

As we approach the end of the academic year, I would like to thank you for your support throughout this busy year, as we look forward to the summer holiday and prepare for new school year in September. We are, as always, very grateful for your generous support and appreciate the partnership we have with you.

This summer term finishes for pupils on **Friday 21st July at 3.00 p.m.**

A - Start of Term arrangements

I can inform you that there will now be **6 INSET days** in the next academic year 2023.24. We have proposed setting these days as:

INSET 1 – Monday 4th September.

INSET 2 – Tuesday 5th September.

INSET 3 - Friday 27th October.

INSET 4 – Monday 8th January.

INSET 5 - Friday 24th May.

INSET 6 – Monday 22nd July*.

The first day of term for all pupils in Years 7 to 13 will therefore be **Wednesday 6th September**. Pupils in Years 8, 9, 10 11 & 13 will go directly to their form classrooms for registration at 8.40 a.m. **All pupils in Year 7 will assemble in the Sports Hall for registration at 8.40 a.m. Year 12 pupils will receive information on induction following GCSE results day.**

We will operate a normal school day for all pupils in Years 8 - 13 in September 2023:

Registration/Wellbeing/Assembly	8.40 – 9.00
Lesson 1	9.00 – 10.00
Lesson 2	10.00 – 11.00
Break	11.00 – 11.20
Lesson 3	11.20 – 12.20
Lesson 4	12.20 - 1.20
Lunch	1.20 – 2.00
Lesson 5	2.00 – 3.00
Extra – Curricular programme	3.00

The school day will be slightly different for Year 7 pupils. This is due to the need for a staggered lunch period to accommodate all pupils accessing school canteens.

Year 7

Registration/Wellbeing/Assembly	8.40 – 9.00
Lesson 1	9.00 – 10.00
Lesson 2	10.00 – 11.00
Break	11.00 – 11.20
Lesson 3	11.20 – 12.20
Lesson 4 – part 1	12.20 - 1.00



Lunch	1.00 – 1.40
Leeson 4 – part 2	1.40 – 2.00
Lesson 5	2.00 – 3.00
Extra – Curricular programme	3.00

There will be a '*year ahead*' meeting for the parents of Year 7 pupils on **Thursday 7th September** at 5.30 in the Senior Hall. I will write to all parents at the start of next term to share arrangements for all other parents' meetings, evenings, and key calendar events in 2023.24.

B - Results days

Official results days are **Thursday 17th August** for Years 12 and 13, and **Thursday 24th August** for Years 10 and 11. Students can collect their results in person at school from 8.30 a.m. or via email on request.

C - Uniform, Jewellery and Mobile Devices

We would be grateful for the support of parents in ensuring that children are correctly attired, including appropriate footwear and hair colour as outlined in our school policy, when we return after the summer holiday. Hoodies and leggings are not permitted. Following the publication of new guidance on school uniform by the Welsh Government, we will be launching a uniform consultation in 2023.24. In the meantime, pupils are expected to wear Autumn/Winter uniform upon restarting in September.

We have made arrangements so that second-hand school uniforms are available for parents and carers to acquire through a new uniform recycling and exchange scheme. Please contact either Mrs Alison Markey or Mrs Eloise Lowry if you would like to acquire any uniform items through this scheme.

Eloise.LOWRY@bryntirioncs.bridgend.cymru.

Alison.MARKEY@bryntirioncs.bridgend.cymru

The only jewellery permitted is one small plain stud in the lobe of each ear. Pupils are not allowed to wear any other form of body jewellery or piercings, including rings, in the interests of their own health and safety.

<https://www.bryntirioncs.bridgend.sch.uk/content/school-uniform>

Please note that:

- Mobile devices/phones must not be seen or heard in any lesson at any time (They must be switched to silent and stored in school bags).
- Mobile devices/phones are permitted to be used appropriately at break and lunchtimes to access school-based electronic platforms (e.g., TEAMS, Classcharts etc.)
- Personal headphones are not to be seen at any time during the school day.

D - Staying Safe Online this Summer

The Welsh Government has produced a useful set of guidance to support parents and families in relation to online safety. If you think your child may be having an issue online but they are reluctant to talk to you about it, you can direct them to the [online issues and worries](#) area of Hwb. This area has been created so that children and young people know what to do and where to turn for help with a number of online issues. CEOP Education has a great [resource](#) with tips for starting a conversation with your child about a sensitive issue or something you don't usually talk about.



Keeping up with the latest social media and gaming apps children and young people are using can be a minefield! New [app guides](#) highlight the current most popular apps and include information about risks and enabling parental controls and safety settings. If you are considering buying your child a smartphone or have recently done so, you'll want to ensure it is set up correctly and safely. Internet Matters and EE have produced [guidance](#) for parents and carers as part of their PhoneSmart licence, to help you talk to your children about online safety and set up their smartphones safely.

There are some new and emerging issues and trends you may have heard of and want to know more about.

- Online challenges can spread quickly on social media, particularly on apps such as TikTok. If you're concerned that your child may have been exposed to a harmful online challenge, there is [guidance](#) available to support you.
- AI chatbots are becoming increasingly popular with children and young people. To learn more about how they are being used, take a look at the Safer Schools [guide](#).
- If you have any concerns that your child may be accessing the dark web, this [factsheet](#) produced by CEOP Education will help you to have informed conversations and support your child.
- The metaverse is a concept which is being discussed widely as the potential future of the internet. These [resources](#) will help you and your family understand the concepts behind the future metaverse, how it may be used and potential risks and dangers.

If you are concerned about an issue or something a child or young person has experienced, there is help and advice available. Our [report an online issue](#) area on [Keeping Safe Online](#) can guide you to find the right support, whatever the issue.

E - Farewell to staff

We will be bidding a fond farewell to members of staff who are leaving Bryntirion at the end of this term:

- Mrs Danielle Ayres – Mathematics
- Mrs Kay Jones - MFL
- Mr Andrew Ward - Science
- *Mrs Janet Evans – Examinations Officer
- *Mrs Ailsa Hillsdon – Numeracy Interventions Officer
- *Mrs Pat James – Cleaning Supervisor

*These respected and valued colleagues are retiring at the end of the school year. They have all made tremendous contributions to the life and work of the school. On behalf of everyone at Bryntirion, I would like to wish them all very happy, healthy and enjoyable retirements.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you a very restful, happy and enjoyable summer break, and thank you for your generous support this year. We are full of optimism for the prospects for our school in 2023.24 and beyond. We have an ambitious programme for development next year and have the confidence and commitment to ensure the school prospers and excels.

Yours sincerely

Mr Pawar - Headteacher

